

February 21, 2023



The Honorable Liz Linehan, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Ceci Maher, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Sarah Keitt, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Julie Kushner, Vice Chair  
The Honorable Anne Dauphinais, Ranking Member  
The Honorable Lisa Seminara, Ranking Member  
Committee on Children  
Connecticut General Assembly  
State Capitol Building, Room 011  
Hartford, CT 06106

RE: SB 1047: An Act Authorizing the Commissioner of Early Childhood to Enter into Certain Contracts.

Co-Chairs Linehan and Maher, Vice Chairs Keitt and Kushner, Ranking members Dauphinais and Seminara and members of the Committee on Children:

My name is Rebecca Ruitto, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and the Chair for the Connecticut Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (CTAMFT). I am a resident of Colchester and own a private mental health practice in West Hartford. I am writing in support of SB 1047: An Act Authorizing the Commissioner of Early Childhood to Enter into Certain Contracts.

CTAMFT represents over 2,000 Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) throughout Connecticut. Marriage and Family Therapists are employed in various clinical settings throughout the state via: private outpatient treatment; community based and outreach programs; in-home services; school-based services; and agency inpatient and outpatient care, among others. Marriage and Family Therapists are specifically trained through a systemic lens, and have extensive training in treating individuals, couples, families and systems as problems arise.

The impact of mental health professionals' collaboration with the early education system cannot be understated. Providing teachers, staff and families with the necessary tools to best serve our most vulnerable children has life long effects and helps to promote physical wellbeing, academic attendance and performance, positive social and emotional skills and healthy connections to their community.

I urge you to support SB 1047, An Act Authorizing the Commissioner of Early Childhood to

Enter into Certain Contracts, with an emphasis on contracts with mental health professionals. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists specifically are well suited for this task as a result of our systemic training to collaborate with both the early education system and the family system.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if I can be of further assistance at [chair@ctamft.org](mailto:chair@ctamft.org).

Sincerely,

*Rebecca Ruitto, LMFT*

Rebecca Ruitto, LMFT  
Chair, CTAMFT